

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

The Station Fire Incident began on Wednesday, August 26, 2009, and has been extremely dynamic and unpredictable. Information on evacuation orders and evacuation shelters has not been readily available to the impacted communities. Further, the County's new mass emergency notification system failed to inform residents about the status of the fire or evacuation orders. It was reported to my office that an erroneous evacuation order was announced by the mass emergency notification broadcast system to the community of La Crescenta.

My office has received countless reports from constituents about the lack of information available to them on the County websites, as well as, the lack of coordination amongst the agencies implementing the evacuation orders. Several impacted cities, provided hourly updates to the communities they serve via their websites and phone notification systems. The County's Public Information Office has the capability to provide the same level of service to its residents but failed to do so during this incident. Timely, accurate and user-friendly incident updates should be posted onto the County's website including information about evacuations, road closure, shelters, transit schedules and school closures.

Staff from County departments should be mobilized as soon as possible to assist residents impacted by the Station Fire. Displaced residents may need assistance from the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles as they seek shelter over the next few weeks and months. The Department of Public Works must take steps immediately to prevent mudflow impacts upon residents living in and near canyon and hillside areas. The Department of Public Works and Regional Planning must establish one-stop centers to expedite the issuance of necessary planning approvals and building permits. And the Assessor should implement measures to provide property tax relief for individuals whose homes were damaged or destroyed by the fire.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that this Board hereby direct the Chief Executive Officer to work in conjunction with the Fire Department, the Sheriff's Department, the Department of Animal Care and Control, the Executive Director of the Housing Authority, the Department of Public Works, the Director of Regional Planning, and the Assessor to:

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

1. Perform a thorough review of the effectiveness and failures of the County's mass emergency notification system;
2. Ensure that the information posted on the County's website about the fires is real-time, accurate and user friendly and that protocols and procedures are developed to institutionalize the real-time posting of such information/updates on natural disasters and other significant incidents in the future;
3. Authorize Section 8 housing vouchers to qualified individuals and families, to apply a local preference to those individuals and families, to apply to HUD for any additional funds, including emergency vouchers, and to dispatch a response team to evacuation centers to assist individuals whose homes were lost in the fire;
4. Assess the effect of the fires on the watersheds of Los Angeles County, including impacts upon the infrastructure of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (including dams, debris basins, channels, and storm drains), and take immediate action to provide flood protection, prevent hill-side erosion, to reduce potential impacts upon County residents;
5. Work with Federal and State agencies, including the Natural Resource Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Forest Service, and the State Department of Water Resources, and the County Fire Department to effectively implement and fund temporary flood protection measures to protect resident living near burnt hillsides and canyons from potential effects of devastating mudflows due to loss of vegetation on slopes;
6. Expedite the issuance of permits and establish one-stop permitting centers in those areas impacted by the recent fires;
7. Develop concessions for property-owners whose homes were damaged or destroyed in the fires, including extending deadlines for upcoming property tax payments, adjusting property taxes to reflect the recent loss of structures, or deferring payments to future tax years; and
8. Provide a report to the Board in two weeks.

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